

Application/Control Number : 10/600,461  
Art Unit: 1743  
October 24, 2005  
Page 2

In the Claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A disposable support for a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising a vertical flat supporting base, a wall protruding at right angles from the supporting base, at least one funnel supported by the wall and provided in a lower region thereof with a corresponding horizontal connection channel, a slide, and a filtering card, the disposable support being formed from a single element made of molded plastic material and comprising: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges ~~and made integral therewith~~ for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body ~~and made as an integral part thereof~~ for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge, said supporting body, clamp means and transverse pivot forming a monolithic structure of plastic material.

2. (currently amended) The support of claim 1, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made monolithic ~~integral~~ with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

3. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

4. (original) The support of claim 3, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

5. (original) The support of claim 3, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

6. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between

Application/Control Number : 10/600,461  
Art Unit: 1743  
October 24, 2005  
Page 3

ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

7. (original) The support of claim 2, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

8. (currently amended ) A disposable support ~~for~~ and a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising a container with a vertical flat supporting base, a slide, and a filtering card, the disposable support being a single independent monolithic molded plastic element that comprises: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges and made integral monolithic therewith for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body and made ~~as an integral part thereof~~ monolithic therewith for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge.

9. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

10. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

11. (previously presented) The support of claim 10, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

12. (previously presented) The support of claim 10, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

13. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, wherein said clamp means

Application/Control Number : 10/600,461  
Art Unit: 1743  
October 24, 2005  
Page 4

are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

14. (previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

15. (currently amended) A disposable kit consisting in a support for and in a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising: a container with a vertical flat supporting base that forms a single element made of molded plastic material, a slide, and a filtering card, the and the disposable support being a single monolithic molded plastic element that comprises comprising: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges ~~and made integral therewith and~~ which have ~~integrally formed~~ levers adapted for finger actuation that produces an elastic flexing motion thereof such as as to move apart the clamp means for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body ~~and made as an integral part thereof~~ for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge, said disposable support with the supporting body, the clamp means, the levers and the transverse pivot thereof forming a single monolithic element molded in plastics.

16. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

17. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

Application/Control Number : 10/600,461  
Art Unit: 1743  
October 24, 2005  
Page 5

18. (previously presented) The support of claim 17, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

19. (previously presented) The support of claim 15, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs being each provided shaped integral with a respective one of said levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

20. (previously presented) The support of claim 16, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.